



X-FACTOR

THIS ISSUE -- **CYCLOPS**

POPS THE QUESTION!

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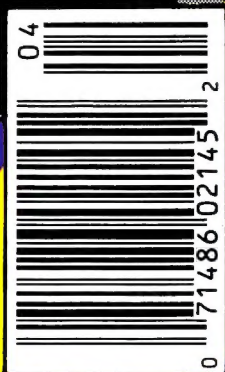


...AND
ICEMAN

GOES OUT
ON A DATE!

SABRETOOTH
HUNTS!

ICELIBAN
TRIUMPHANT!



Shumaker '90

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

GHOSTS

CALIBAN HUNTS
SABRETOOTH!
YET THE SPOOR
HAS LED HIM TO
ARCHANGEL OF
X-FACTOR. HOW
CAN THIS BE?

THE SNOW HAS FALLEN ALL NIGHT
LONG, BUT THE BLOODSTAINS ARE
STILL UNSHROUDED. THE BATTLE
ONLY RECENTLY ENDED.

FROM THE LOOKS OF THE AREA,
THE ANGEL GAVE AS GOOD AS
HE GOT... ALMOST. FOR, WHILE
HE LIES-- SHATTERED, BROKEN,
AND BLOODED...

...THE ONE CALLED
SABRETOOTH IS NO-
WHERE TO BE SEEN.

CALIBAN'S MASTER,
APOCALYPSE, MADE
ARCHANGEL STRONG...
POWERFUL... AS HE
DID CALIBAN.

HE, TOO, WAS
APOCALYPSE'S
CHOSEN! HOW CAN
ARCHANGEL HAVE
ALLOWED SABRETOOTH
TO DEFEAT HIM?

LOUISE
SIMONSON
WRITER

TERRY
SHOEMAKER
PENCILER

ALLEN
MILGROM
INKER

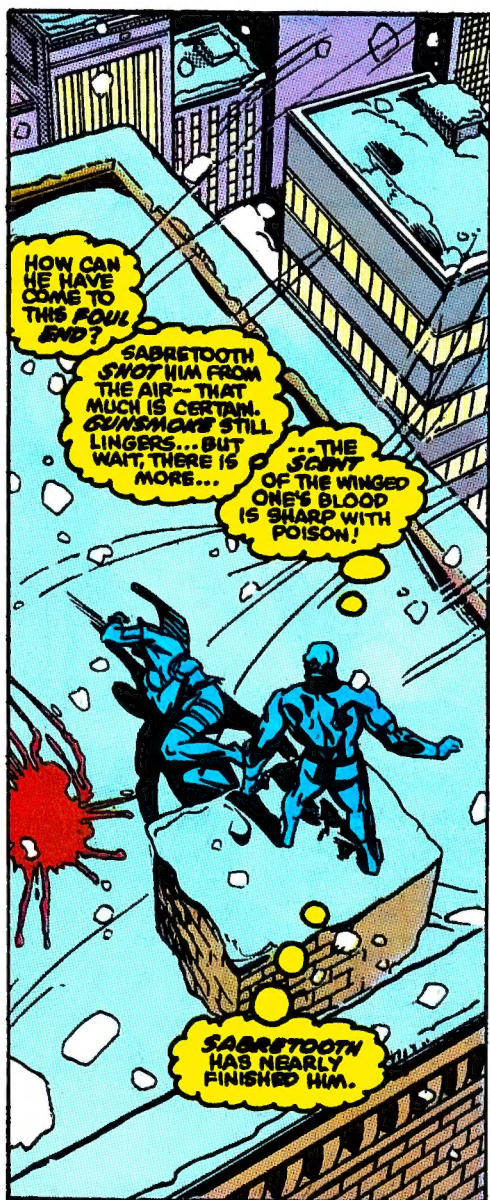
JOE
ROSEN
LETTERER

TOM
VINCENT
COLORIST

BOB
HARRAS
EDITOR

TOM
DEFALCO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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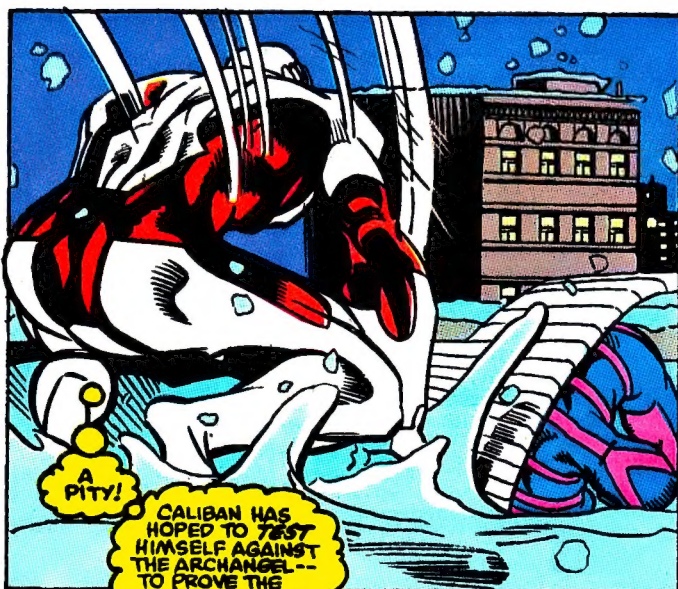


HOW CAN HE HAVE COME TO THIS FOUL END?

SABRETOOTH SHOT HIM FROM THE AIR-- THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN. GUNSMOKE STILL LINGERS... BUT WAIT, THERE IS MORE...

... THE SCENT OF THE WINGED ONE'S BLOOD IS SHARP WITH POISON!

SABRETOOTH HAS NEARLY FINISHED HIM.

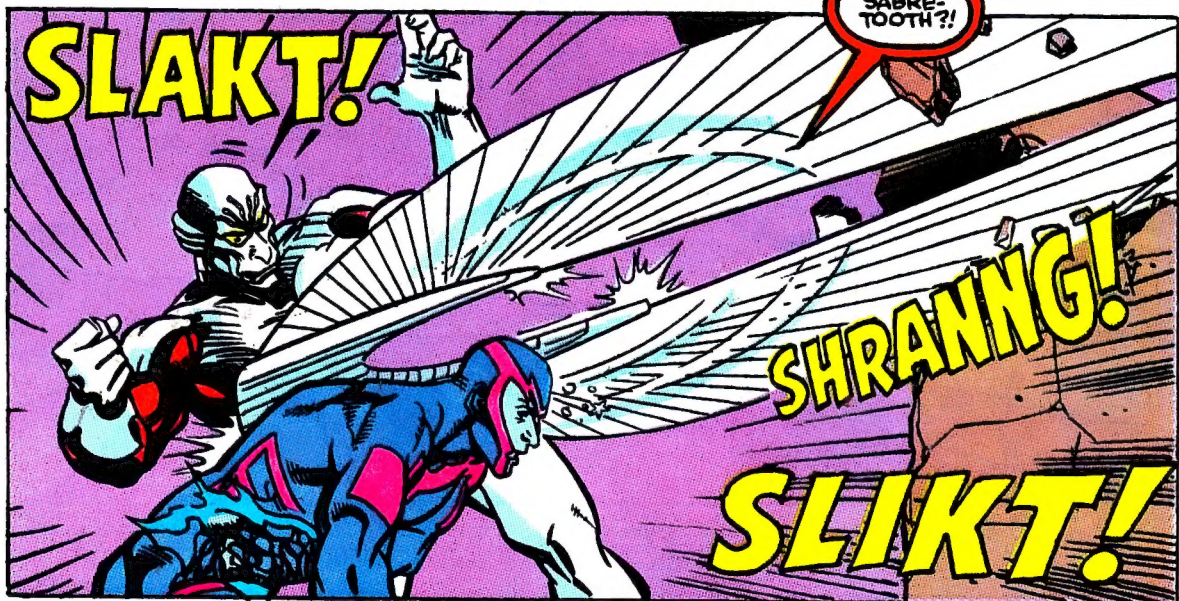


A PITY!

CALIBAN HAS HOPED TO TEST HIMSELF AGAINST THE ARCHANGEL-- TO PROVE THE SUPERIORITY OF HIS MASTER'S NEW CREATION.



WHA--?

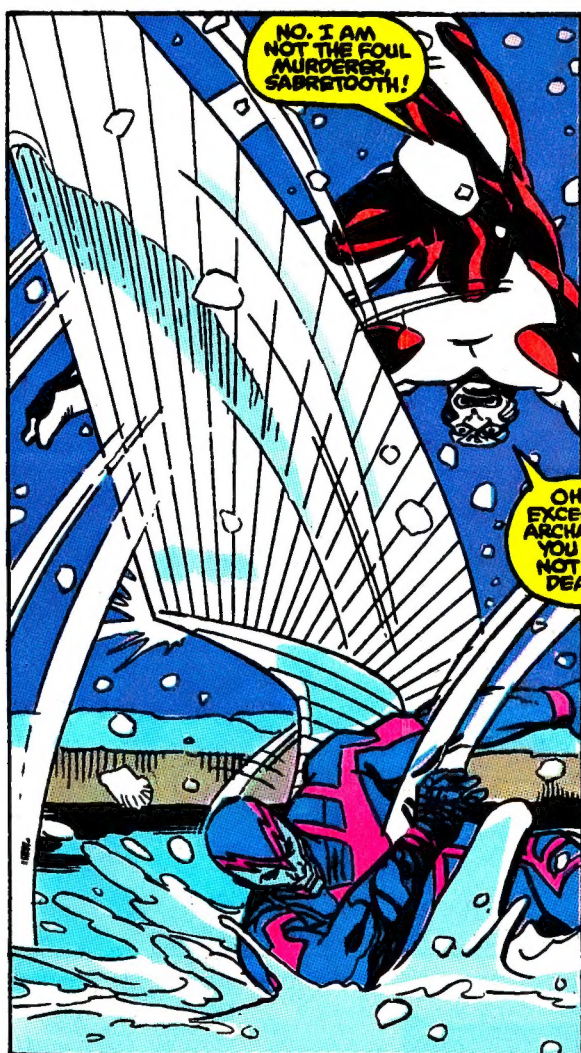


SLAKT!

SABRE-TOOTH?!

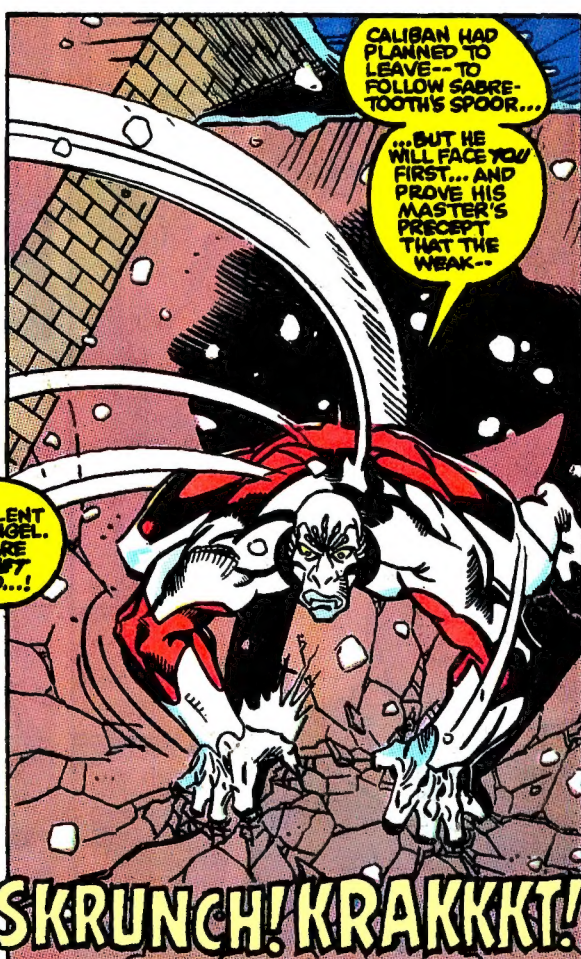
SHRANNG!

SLIKT!



NO, I AM
NOT THE FOUL
MURDERER,
SABRETOOTH!

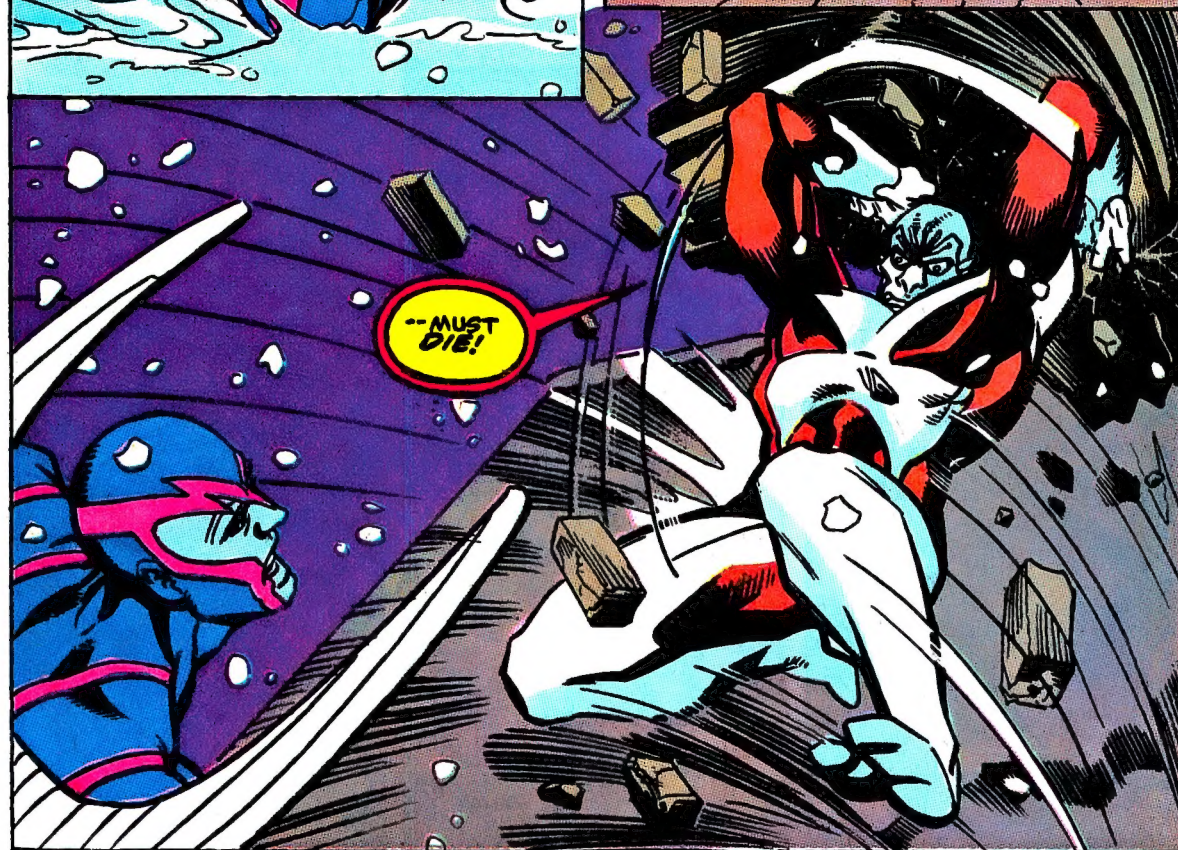
OH,
EXCELLENT
ARCHANGEL.
YOU ARE
NOT YET
DEAD...



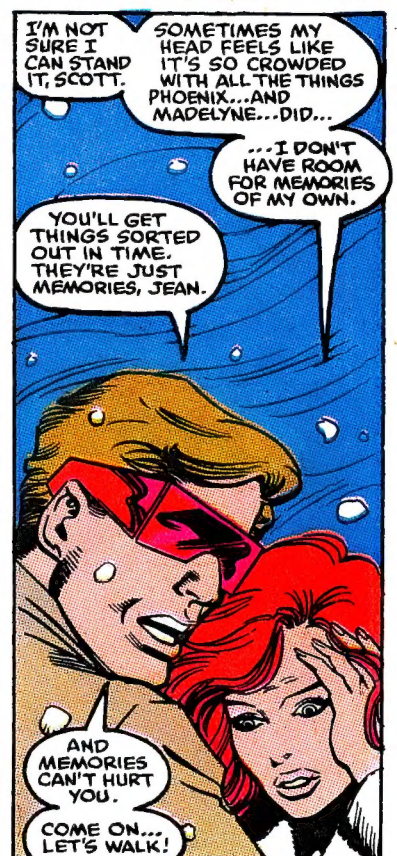
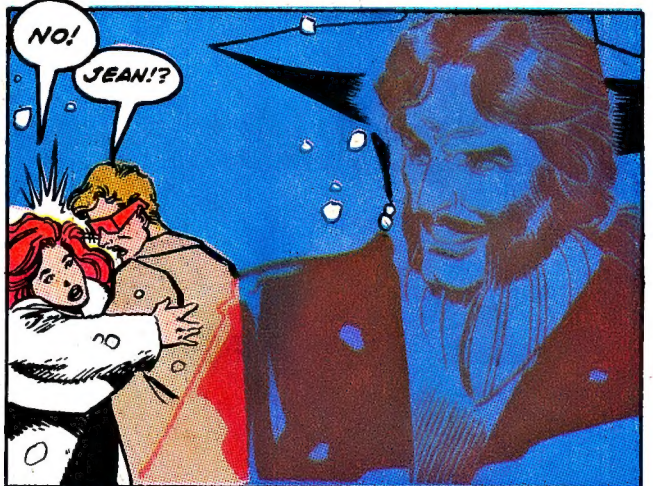
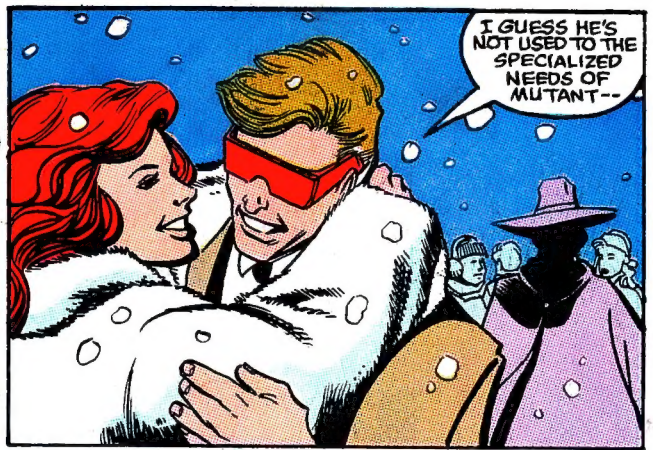
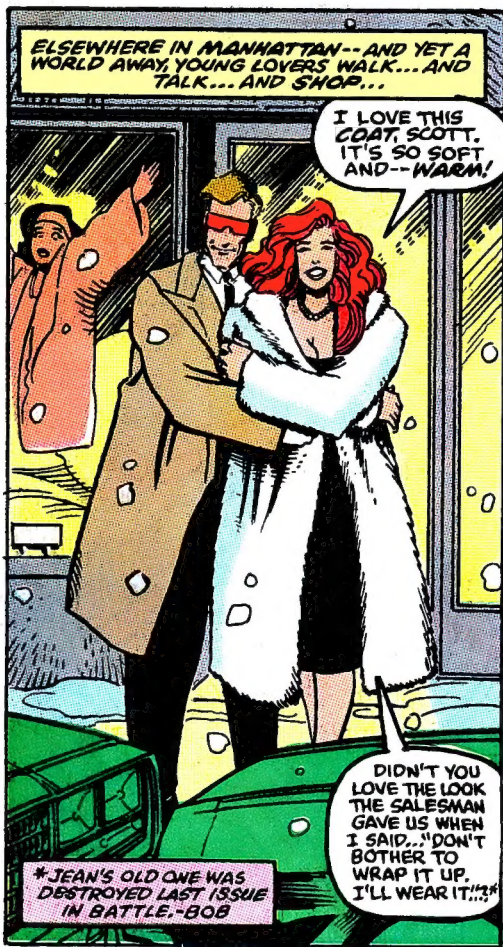
CALIBAN HAD
PLANNED TO
LEAVE-- TO
FOLLOW SABRE-
TOOTH'S SPOOR...

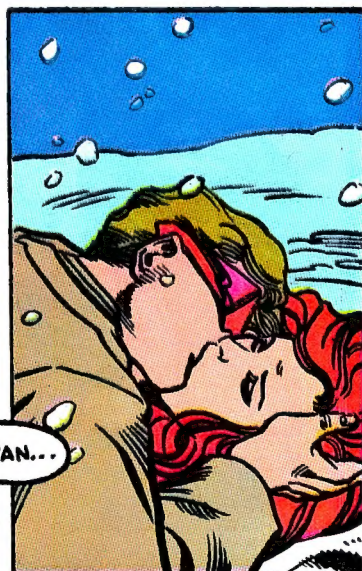
...BUT HE
WILL FACE YOU
FIRST... AND
PROVE HIS
MASTER'S
PRECEPT
THAT THE
WEAK--

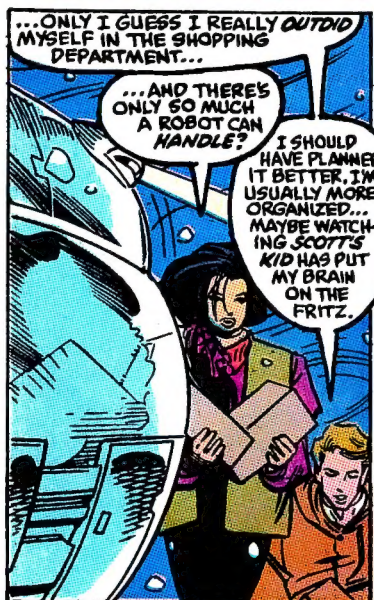
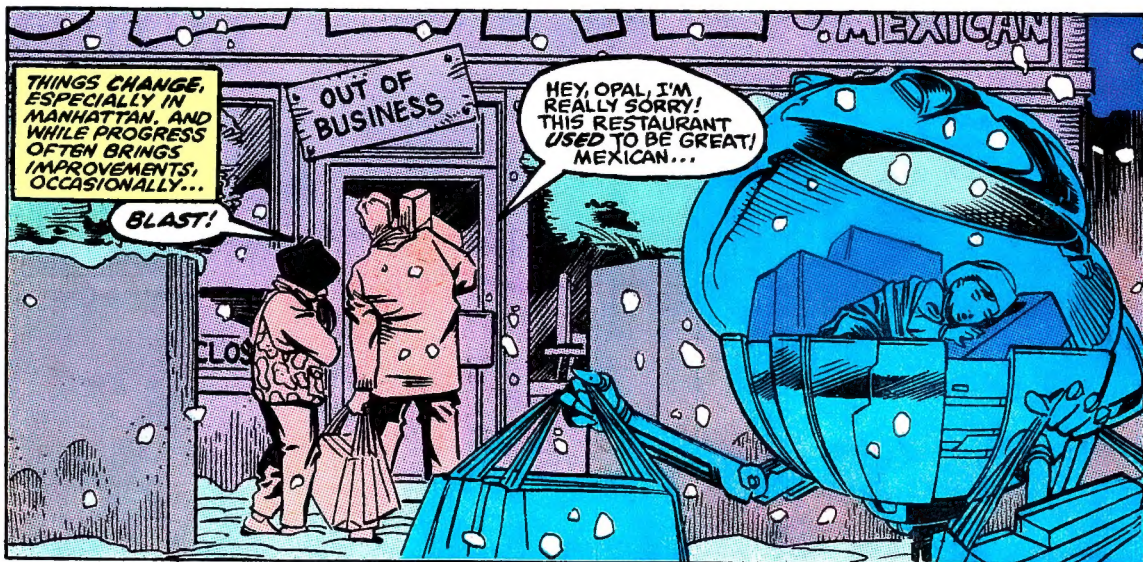
SKRUNCH! KRAKKKT!



--MUST
DIE!







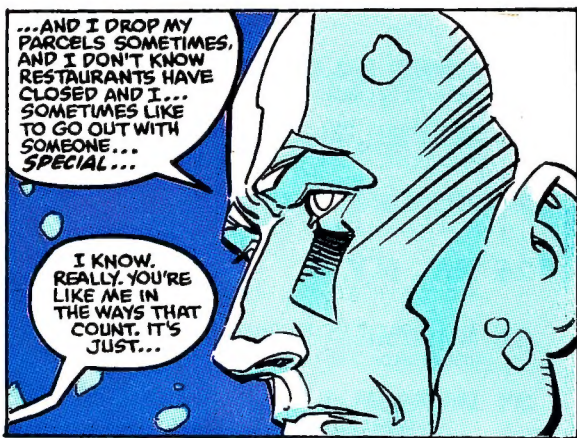


C'MON, OPAL-- I'M ICEMAN!

WHOA--
I FORGOT YOU COULD DO THAT! I FORGOT YOU WERE A MUTANT.



I NEVER SAW YOU DO THAT BEFORE. YOU'RE NOT LIKE ME, ARE YOU? YOU TRAVEL IN SPACE AND LIVE ON THAT IMMENSE, THINKING SHIP... YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE FIGHTING INCREDIBLE MENACES...



...AND I DROP MY PARCELS SOMETIMES, AND I DON'T KNOW RESTAURANTS HAVE CLOSED AND I... SOMETIMES LIKE TO GO OUT WITH SOMEONE... SPECIAL...

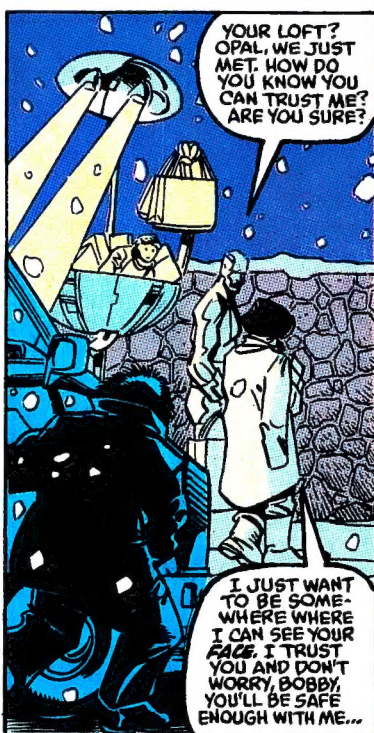
I KNOW, REALLY. YOU'RE LIKE ME IN THE WAYS THAT COUNT. IT'S JUST...



... I MEAN ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, IT'S A PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO THE COLD BUT WHEN YOUR FACE IS ICED OVER LIKE THAT, IT'S LIKE TALKING TO A MASK.

LOOK, I LIVE IN A LOFT IN SOHO. COME HOME WITH ME. I'VE GOT SOME LEFT-OVER PIZZA IN THE FRIDGE AND I'LL MAKE US SOME COFFEE...

...AND YOU CAN THAW OUT--AND WE CAN TALK.



YOUR LOFT? OPAL, WE JUST MET. HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU CAN TRUST ME? ARE YOU SURE?

I JUST WANT TO BE SOMEWHERE WHERE I CAN SEE YOUR FACE. I TRUST YOU AND DON'T WORRY, BOBBY, YOU'LL BE SAFE ENOUGH WITH ME...



...JUST AS LONG AS YOU BRING THE BABY.

THEY'RE GOING TO EAT PIZZA.

AT HER PLACE!

SHE'S TAKING HIM THERE!

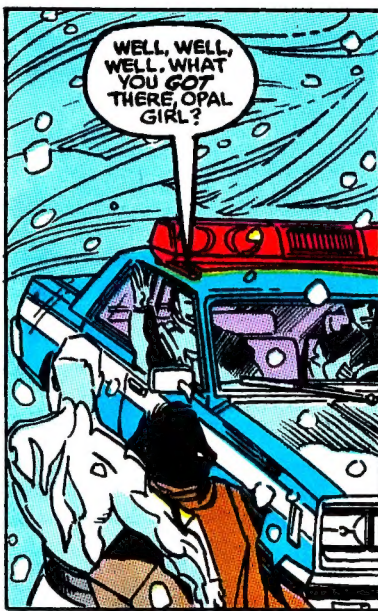
SHE HID ME IN A BASEMENT! SHE'LL BE THERE WITH HIM ALL ALONE!



SHE CAME TO MY AID, BUT TO HER I'M A MONSTER.

SHE'LL TRUST ANYONE! AND WHEN SHE GETS IN TROUBLE AND NEEDS ME, I'LL BE THERE...

...TO PROTECT HER FROM THAT MUTANT MASHER!



WELL, WELL, WELL, WHAT YOU GOT THERE, OPAL GIRL?



HI, OFFICER JONES.

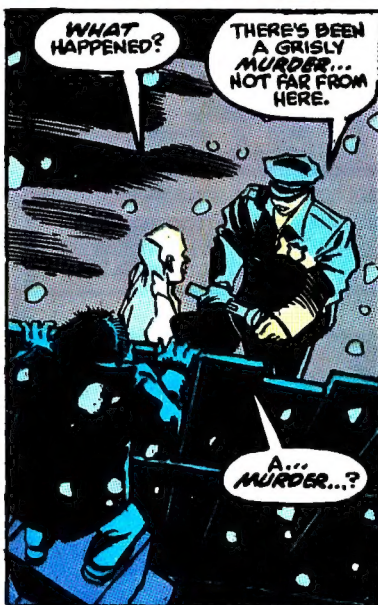
WHY I DO BELIEVE IT'S ICEMAN. NICE TO SEE YOU, FROSTY.



YOUR PAL ARCHANGEL SAVED MY LIFE AGAIN TONIGHT.

THANK HIM FOR ME WHEN YOU SEE HIM. I DIDN'T GET THE CHANCE.

HE LEFT IN A HURRY, SEEMED KINDA SOOKED BY WHAT HAPPENED.



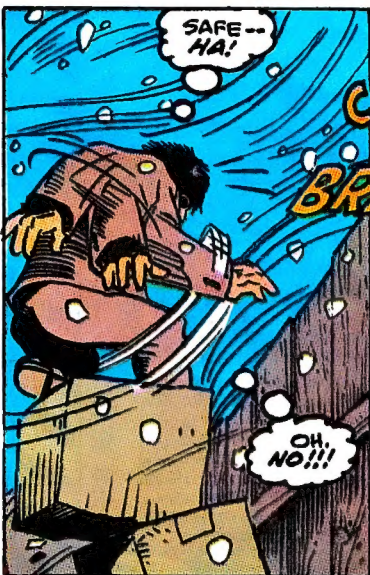
WHAT HAPPENED?

THERE'S BEEN A GRISLY MURDER... NOT FAR FROM HERE.

A... MURDER...?



DON'T WORRY, OPAL. YOU'RE SAFE WITH FROSTY AROUND! YOU TWO HAVE FUN, YOU HEAR?



SAFE-- HA!

CLATTER! KLANG! THUDD! BRANGG!

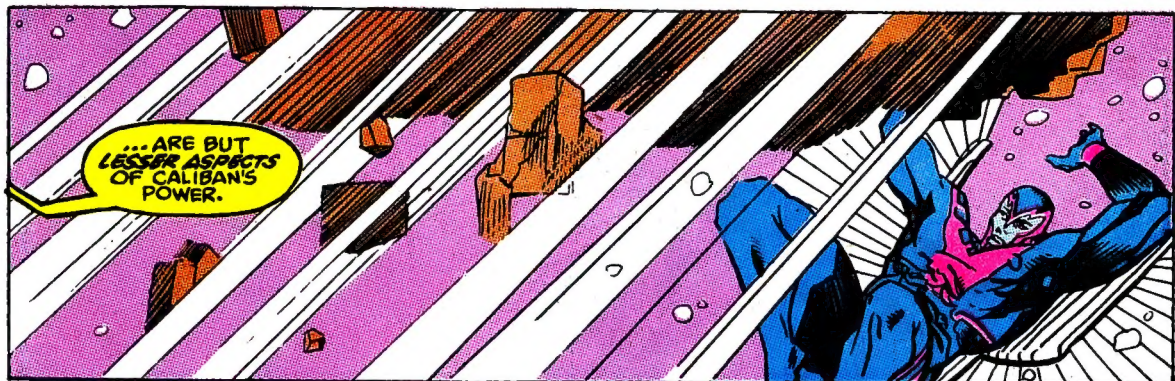
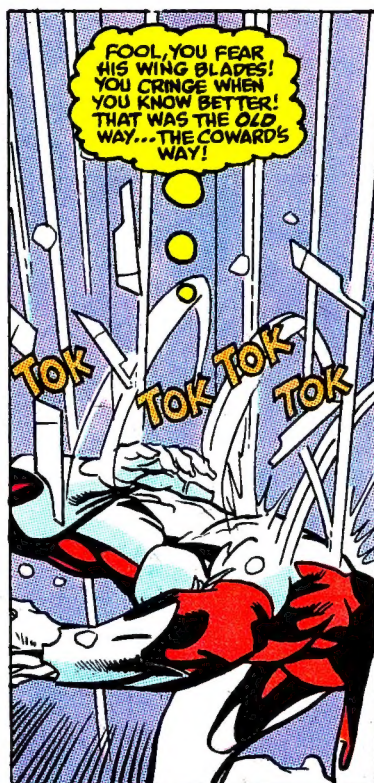
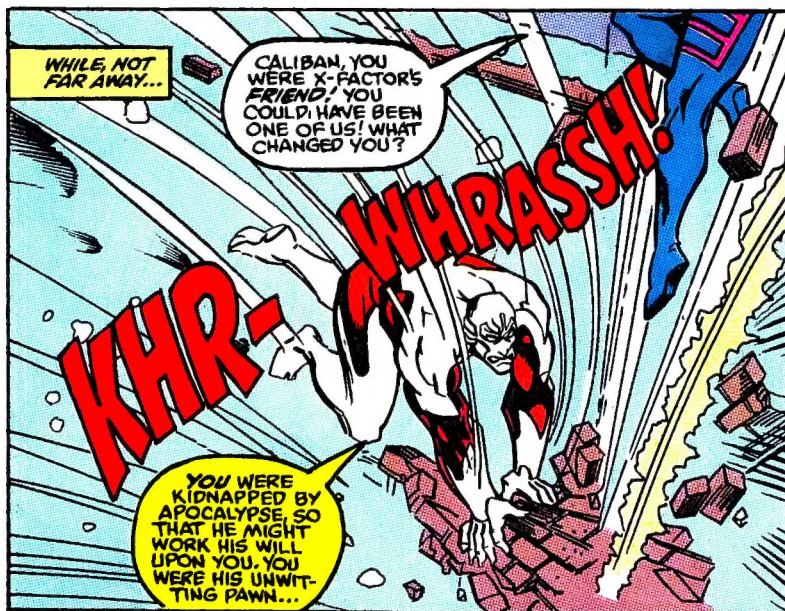
WHAT WAS THAT--?

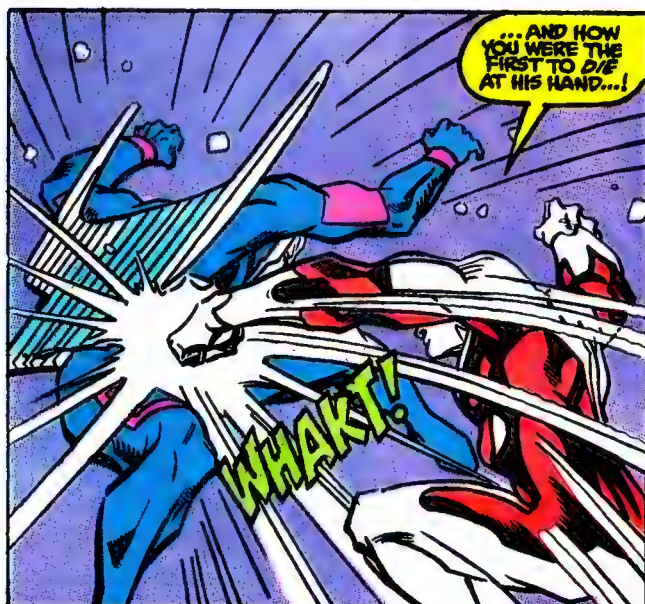
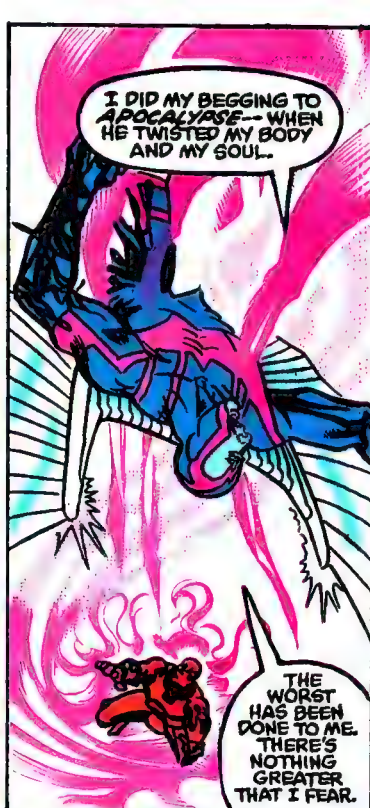
OH, NO!!!



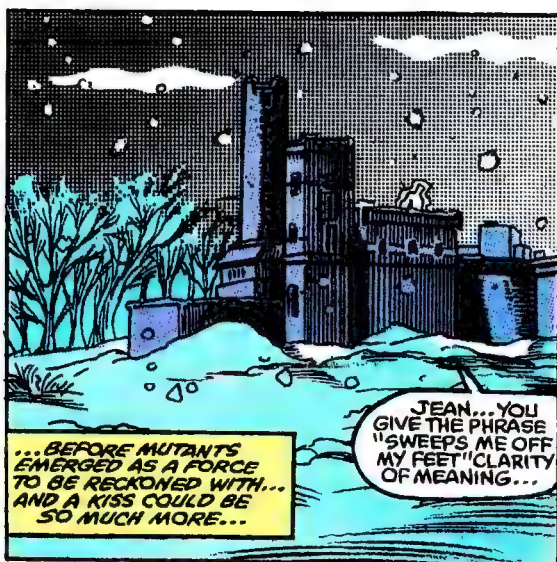
NOTHING, PROBABLY. JUST TRASH CANS BANGING IN THE WIND.

COME ON. I THINK I'D BETTER GET YOU HOME.





A SONG WRITTEN LONG AGO, ASSURES US THAT
"A KISS IS JUST A KISS..." BUT THAT WAS IN
A MORE PRIMITIVE TIME...



...BEFORE MUTANTS
EMERGED AS A FORCE
TO BE RECKONED WITH...
AND A KISS COULD BE
SO MUCH MORE...

JEAN... YOU
GIVE THE PHRASE
"SWEEPS ME OFF
MY FEET" CLARITY
OF MEANING...



I SAW THE
TOWER... HERE...
AND IT SEEMED
LIKE THE RIGHT
THING TO DO.

WHERE
ARE WE?

BELVEDERE
CASTLE-- THE
WEATHER
STATION.



IT'S BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT? THE
CITY CIRCLES THE PARK LIKE
A CROWN.

THOSE
TOWERS...
THEY REMIND
ME OF...
WHAT...?
BLUFFS.
SCOTT... HAVE
I EVER SEEN
IN ARIZONA...?

I DON'T
THINK
SO. WHY...?



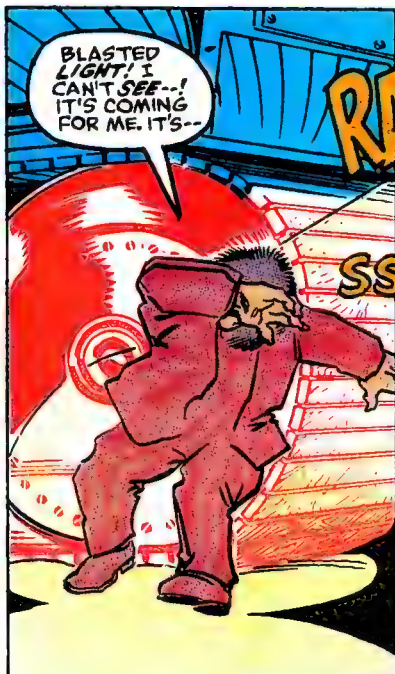
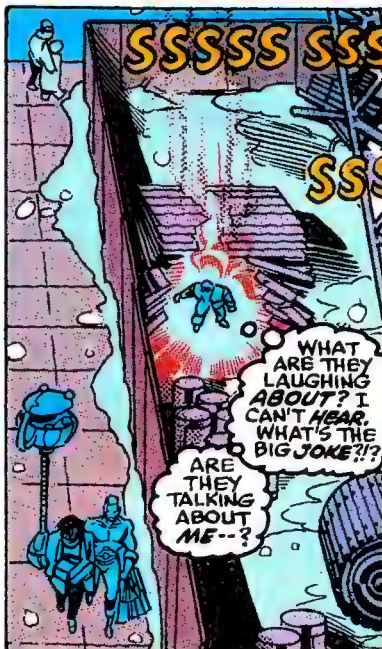
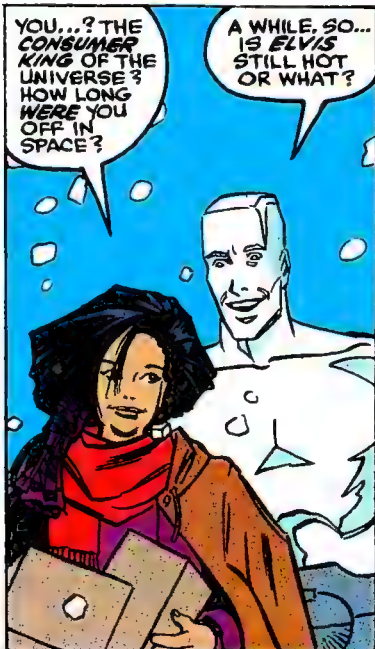
JEAN...
DARLING...
IT DOESN'T
MATTER...
ONLY WE
MATTER.

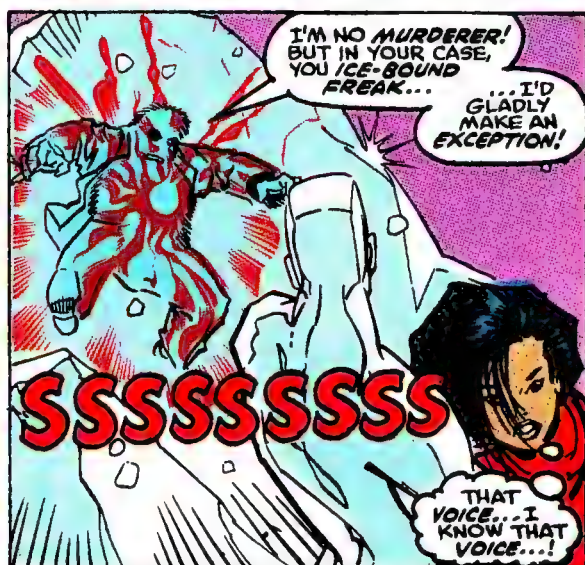
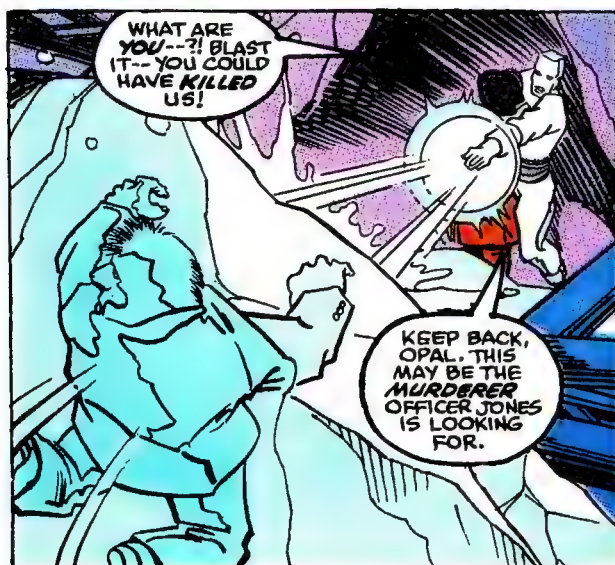
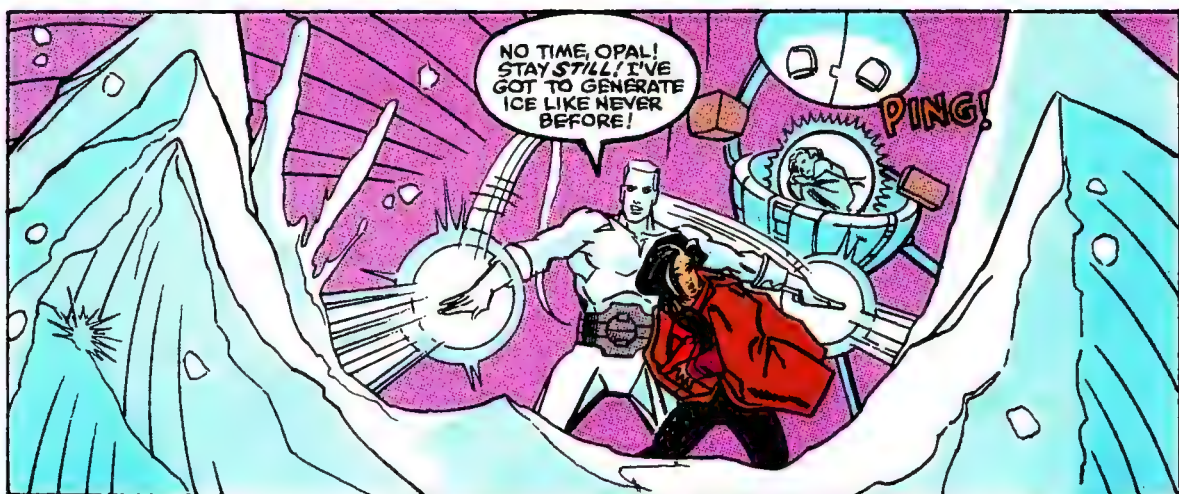
LET ME
PROVE IT
TO YOU. LET
ME MAKE YOU
HAPPY.

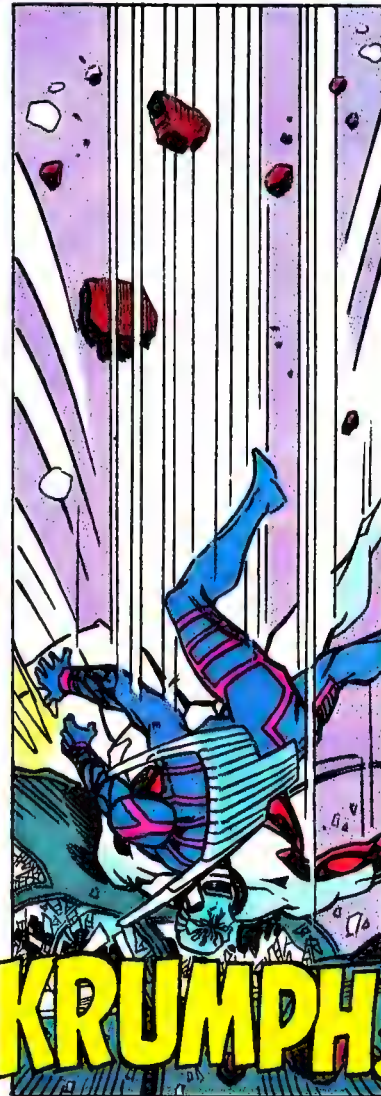
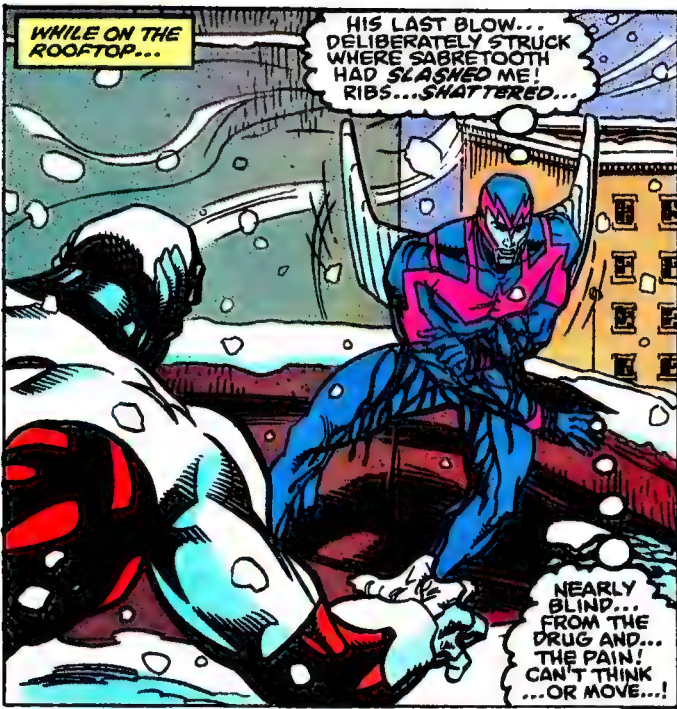


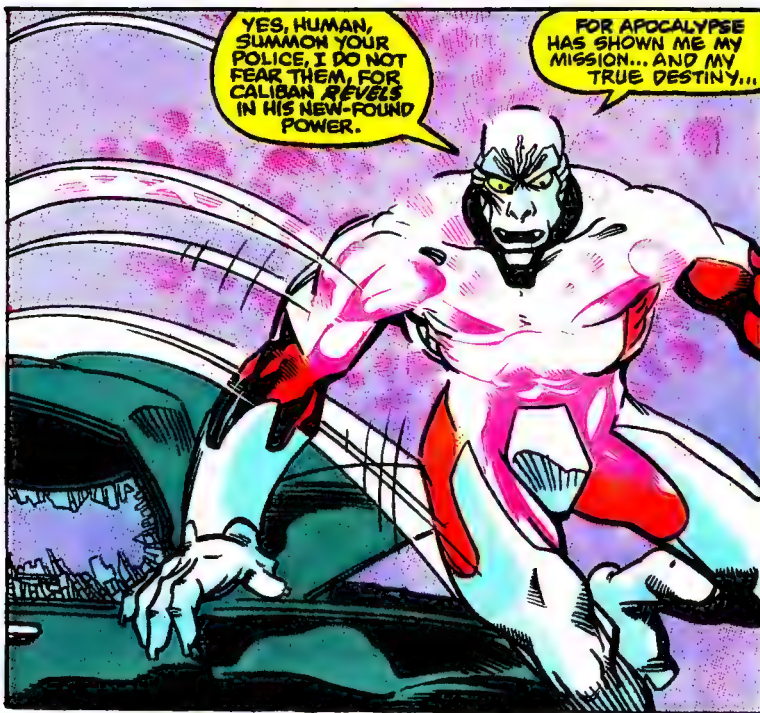
MARRY
ME, JEAN...

MADELYNE,
MARRY ME.









YES, HUMAN, SUMMON YOUR POLICE, I DO NOT FEAR THEM, FOR CALIBAN REVELS IN HIS NEW-FOUND POWER.

FOR APOCALYPSE HAS SHOWN ME MY MISSION... AND MY TRUE DESTINY...

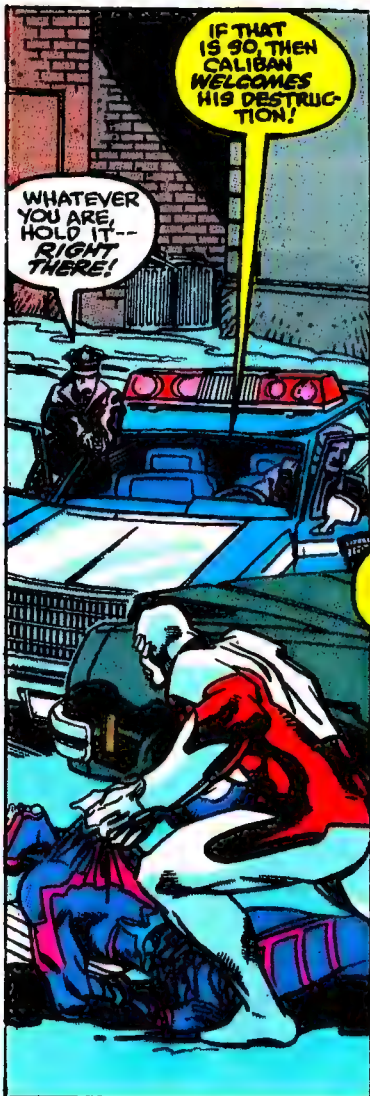


AND I WILL TAKE MY REVENGE AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE WRONGED ME!

HOW HAVE I... WRONGED YOU?

YOU EXIST, YOU ARE MY MASTER'S FIRST... AND FAVORED... CREATION. BY YOUR DEATH, HE WILL KNOW MY SUPERIORITY!

Apocalypse has... DESTROYED you--!



IF THAT IS SO, THEN CALIBAN WELCOMES HIS DESTRUCTION!

WHATEVER YOU ARE, HOLD IT-- RIGHT THERE!



WHAT?!? YOU-- GIVE ORDERS TO CALIBAN?

BLAM!

BLAM!

SURELY, OFFICERS, YOU JEST!



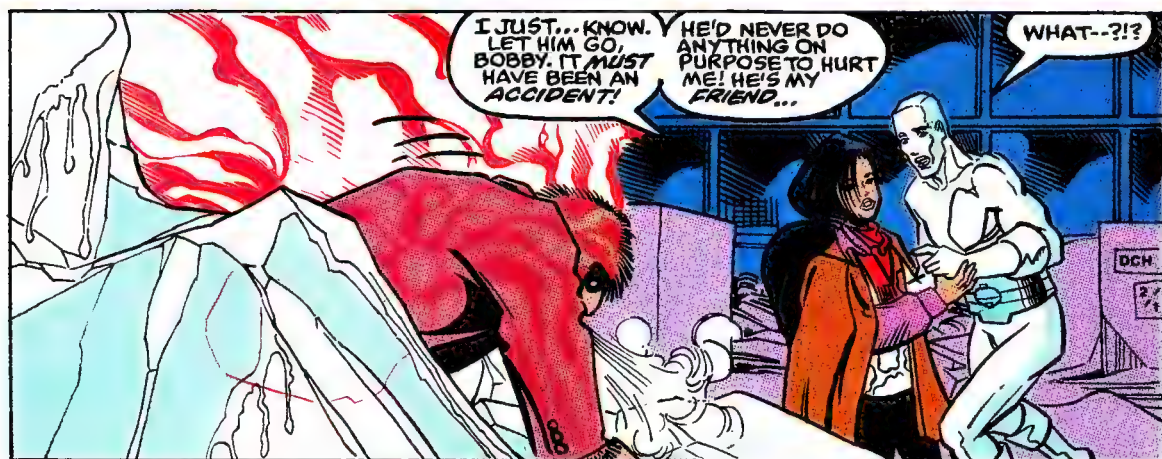
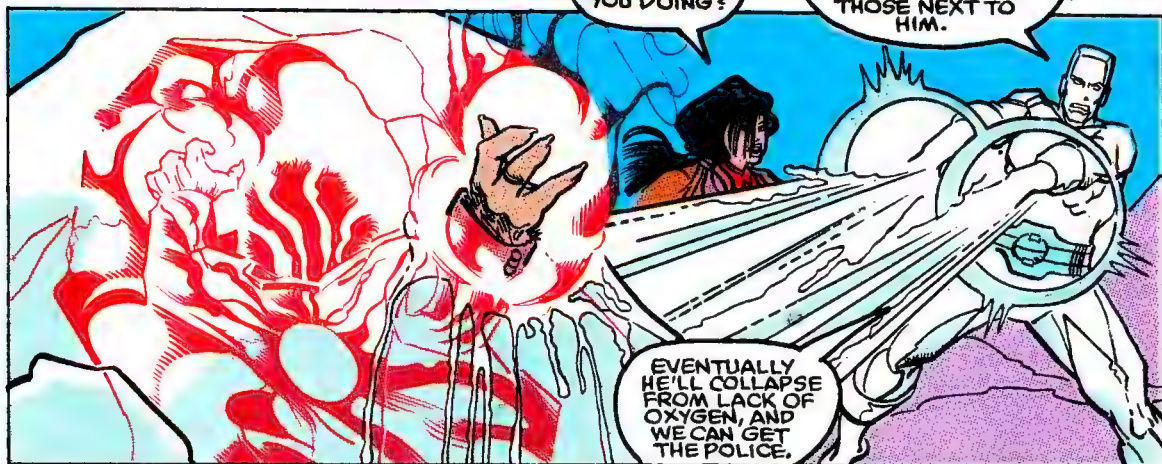
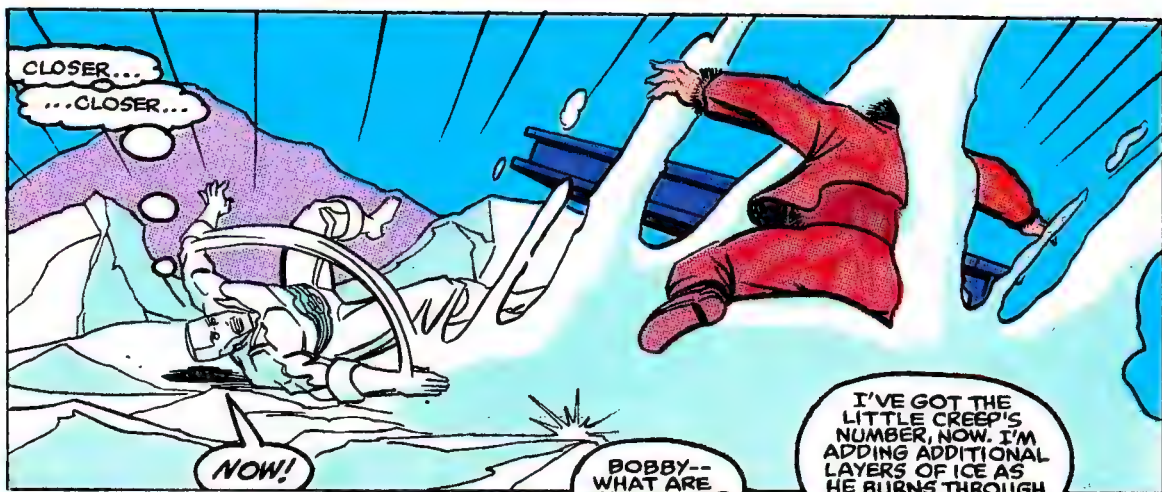
SETH! GET BACK!

WHRAMM!

HOEEEE--!









WE'VE GOT TO QUIT MEETING THIS WAY.

MOLE-- JUST WHAT DID YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING?



I...I TRIPPED... AND DISINTEGRATED THROUGH A CRANE...

...I WAS FOLLOWING YOU, OPAL. I HAD TO PROTECT YOU!

BY DROPPING GIRDERS ON MY HEAD? MOLE... WHO DID YOU THINK YOU WERE PROTECTING ME FROM?

UHHHH... I TOLD YOU, OPAL. BAD GUYS ARE OUT HERE. ONE OF THEM WAS AFTER ME... I WAS AFRAID HE'D BE AFTER YOU.



WHY HE'D BE AFTER HER? LOOK, THIS COULD BE SERIOUS. WHAT KIND OF BAD GUY?



IT'S ME, ICEMAN. SABRETOOTH. I'M BACK.

X-FACTOR'S PRECIOUS ARCHANGEL ALMOST SLICED ME IN TWO. BUT I GOT A HEALIN' FACTOR. I GOT BETTER--



--OR I'D BE DEAD AS THAT ARCHANGEL CHUMP IS NOW.

YEAH. I'M BETTER. BUT NOT FIT YET. WOULDN'T WANNA TAKE ON ARCHANGEL NOW--



...OR ICEMAN, EITHER...

...BUT THAT SCRAWNY LITTLE MUTANT MORLOCK MOLE IS CAT MEAT!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes! Not only does munificent Marvel wish you a Happy New Year, but we're doing our best to make it happy for you! And what better example can I give than this...

Ever since we've been publishing the widely acclaimed MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, many of you have missed it because you couldn't buy it through normal channels, only in comic book specialty stores. But now, because we can't bear the thought of one True Believer missing a single issue of the only magazine devoted to inside information about Marvel's most exciting projects, plus in-depth previews of all our newest stories, plus columns, interviews, cartoons and illustrations giving you the latest news and gossip about the wacky world of Marvel, as well as behind the scenes glimpses of the artists and writers who have become so much a part of all our lives—and because I've got to end this convoluted sentence somewhere—you'll now be able to buy your batty bullpen's own MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE wherever comics are sold!

No, no! Don't besiege us with grateful letters and phone calls! Save your energy for scanning the television listings to see when NBC's next and greatest HULK TV movie will be broadcast! You can't miss a show titled "The Death of the Hulk," right? Especially since it's not a dream or an imaginary plot! You'll find more info about this senses-shattering event in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE where I'll devote an entire page to discussing it!

Till then, remember—it's ten o'clock! Do you know where your comic books are?!!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM: Happy New Year, Faithful Ones! We've been working 'round the clock to come up with more exciting new titles to make 1990 our best year ever. Next month we'll give you the details on our New Titles Contest—a special competition tied to our 1990 premieres! Also, 1990 marks the big fiftieth anniversary of MARVEL COMICS #1 and the red, white, and blue Avenger, *Captain America*! There'll be lots of celebrating, not the least of which will be the release of the live-action *Captain America* movie from 21st Century Films. So stick around, 1990 won't be any fun without you!

ITEM: We're sure you're just as thrilled about the Berlin Wall coming down as we are, that in the interest of world peace we just can't resist telling you that mighty Marvel and our good pals at DC Comics have gotten together on a special project that's not only tons of fun, but educational, too. It's called *Super Heroes: A High Tech Adventure*! It's a traveling exhibit featuring Marvel and DC super heroes explaining contemporary physics to children. It's already too late to catch the show in Portland, Oregon and Los Angeles, California, but if you're lucky you can see the exhibit, at the Detroit Science Center, Detroit, Michigan, February through April; the Museum of Science and Industry, Tampa, Florida, June through August; the Indianapolis Children's Museum, Indianapolis, Indiana, October through December; the Cumberland Science Center, Nashville, Tennessee, February through April 1991; Discovery Place, Charlotte, North Carolina, June through August 1991; The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October through December 1991; the Museum of History and Science, Louisville, Kentucky, June through August 1992; Fort Worth Museum of History and Science, Fort Worth, Texas, October through December 1992. We'll let you know when additional dates are announced, right here in your friendly,

neighborhood Bullpen page. (Who says we never give you enough warning?) We think it's a great show, fun for the whole family, and it proves that in this crazy, mixed-up world of ours, two mighty super powers can work together for the good of mankind.

ITEM: A few months back we had our annual wild and crazy Halloween party, and it was a blast! Mark Gruenwald, our wild and crazy Executive Editor, organized all sorts of wild and crazy party activities, mainly a series of wild and crazy contests between our production personnel and our editorial crew. The powerhouse Production team pummeled the pathetic pencil-pushers from Editorial. For all the gory details check out the latest issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. We'd rather not relive the agony of our defeat just now, if you don't mind.

ITEM: Let's hear it for Soft-spoken Scott Lobdell, one of our new shining stars who has scripted many a tale in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. Not only is Scott struggling to make a name for himself in comics, but he's also a struggling comic. That's the stand-up kind. A comedian. Well, anyway, after the tragic San Francisco earthquake last year, Scott organized a fund-raising effort by getting a bunch of comedy clubs to band together to hold Quake-Aid nights which would turn over all proceeds to the American Red Cross to help the earthquake victims. We hear it was a big success, and we're proud of you, Scott. No kidding.

ITEM: Last, and certainly not least, we're proud to report that on a recent MTV special, "Rating the Eighties," the UNCANNY X-MEN won the award for coolest comic of the decade! Congratulations, Chris Claremont! We're positive the next ten years aren't going to be anything to sneeze at either, as far as our merry mutants are concerned! By the way, we think MTV was the coolest music video station of the eighties, just in case anyone was wondering. Thanks, again, MTV!

PRO FILE: DANNY FINGEROTH



Editor on: MOON KNIGHT, CLOAK AND DAGGER, ALPHA FLIGHT, and NEW WARRIORS.

Marvel freelance credits (past): Writer on

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, PSI-FORCE, and more issues of DAZZLER than any human being on the face of the planet.

Marvel Freelance credits (present): Writer on FANTASTIC FOUR GRAPHIC NOVEL ("Fathers and Sons"), AVENGERS GRAPHIC NOVEL ("Deathtrap: the Vault"), the legendary "Deadly Foes of Spider-Man" serial in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, a host of WHAT IF...?s, Gilgamesh (in AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT), and an upcoming new series I'm not allowed to mention.

My hobbies are: Jogging, reading, listening to talk radio.

The single work of which I am most proud is: *The Thing* solo story ("The Day After") in MARVEL FANFARE #46.

My pet peeves are: Too endless to even begin to list.

My place of birth is: New York, N.Y.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Having a New York showing of some films I'd made.

My oddest habit is: Odder than some people's, not as odd as others!

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Sean Connery.

(Hey, the word "appropriate" doesn't appear in the question!)

The reason I got into comics was: Steinbrenner couldn't match Marvel's offer.

People who knew me in high school thought I was: Actually gonna be a professional writer.

My favorite performers are: Bob Dylan, Van Morrison, Marion Brando, and David Letterman.

The last good book I read was: *New York Son*, stories by Mike Feder.

The last good movie I saw was: *Warlock*, a 50s "psychological western" starring Henry Fonda.

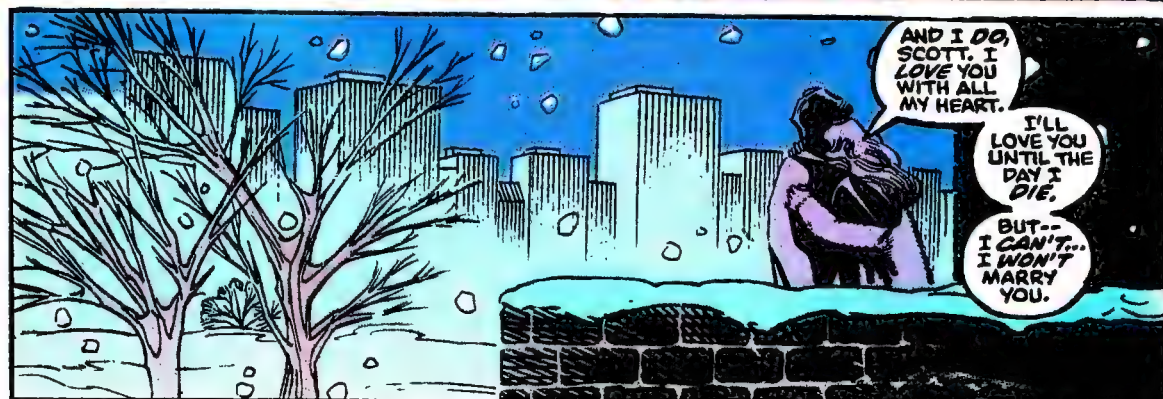
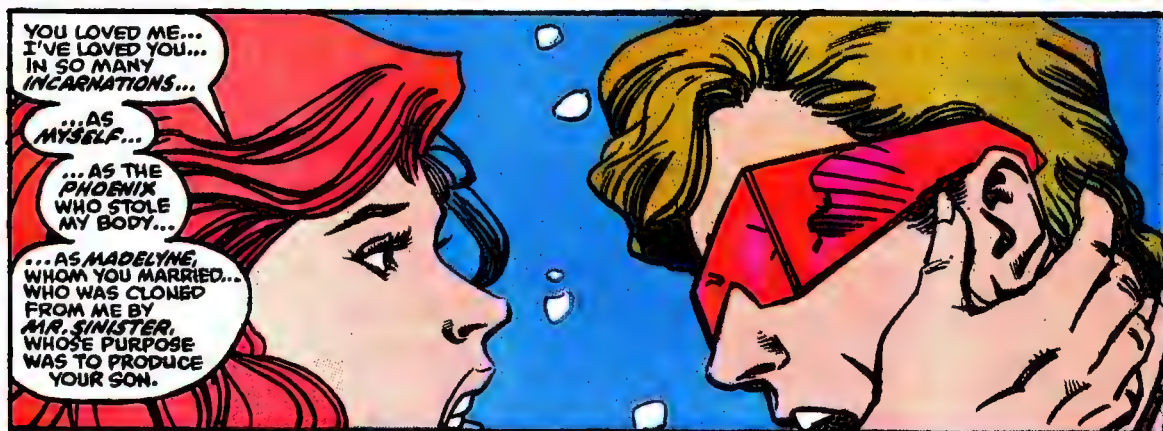
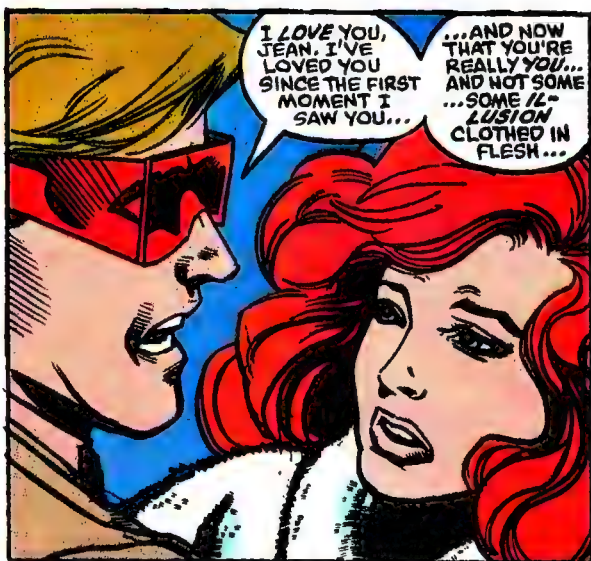
The biggest influences on my work include: My family and my friends, of course. Plus: Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Orson Welles, Jim Shooter, Larry Lieber, Harvey Pekar (who'd probably be distressed to find himself on this list), the SUNY Binghamton Cinema Department, Hank ("Mr.") Levy, Mickey Mantle, Tom DeFalco, and Louise Jones.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To be the regular writer on the FANTASTIC FOUR, Ralph.

The worst part of my job is: Telling people bad news.

When nobody's looking I like to: Pretend I'm Mick Jagger. Or Daryl Edelman.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I'm one of the country's top ten parallel parkers. (No relation to Rick or Peter!)



AND, IN SOHO...

LOOK, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO DOWN INTO THE SEWERS. YOU CAN COME BACK TO MY LOFT... IF YOU WANT...

NO. THE IDEA WAS TO HIDE ME TILL I'M SAFE... AND I'M SAFE NOW.

SEE, HERE'S THE ENTRANCE-- RIGHT WHERE I TOLD YOU... TO THE SEWERS... AND THE TUNNELS BEYOND THEM WHERE I LIVE!

MY... FRIENDS AND I LIVE DOWN HERE, TOGETHER. NOT MANY OF US LEFT NOW. BUT WE HAVE ALARMS. LIKE I TOLD YOU.

NO ONE WOULD EVER DARE FOLLOW ME DOWN HERE ALONE.

YOU'RE SURE?

NO. BUT I CAN'T BEAR TO STAY WITH YOU. TO WATCH YOU TWO TOGETHER.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. KEEP SAFE.

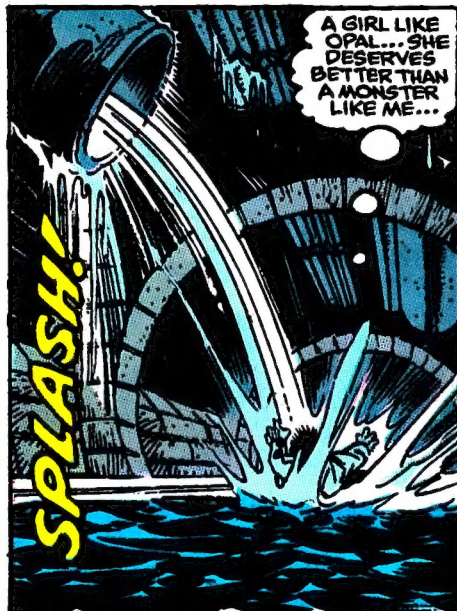
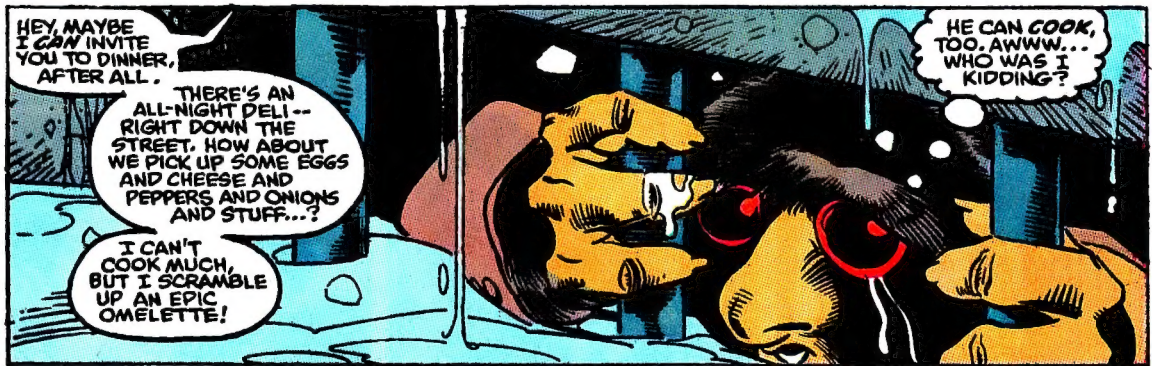
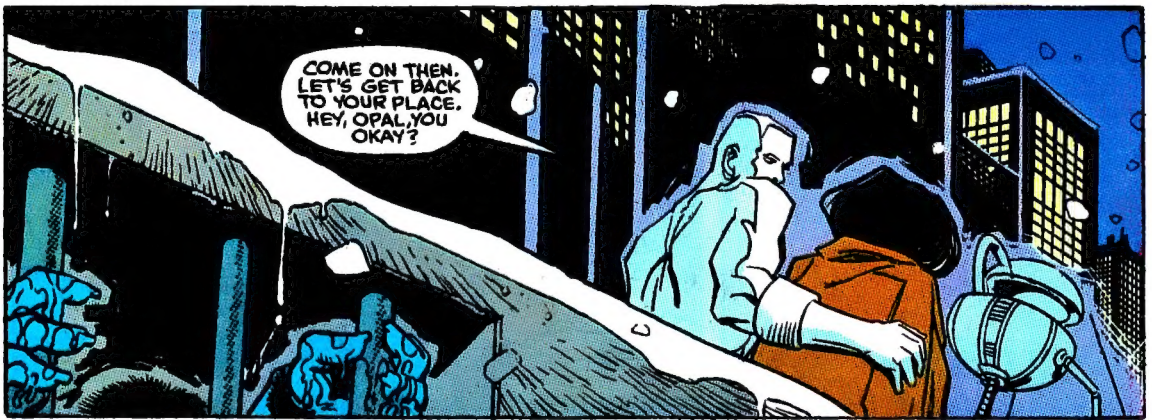
I'M SURE I'LL BE O.K.

IF YOU EVER NEED ANYTHING, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.

SLASH!

MOLE... YOU OKAY?

YEAH... I'M FINE... EVERYTHING'S FINE...



NEXT ISSUE:

GUEST
STAR
COLOSSUS
IN
**CRIMSON
DEATH!**

'NUFF
SAID!



BOB HARRAS: editor — DARYL EDELMAN: assistant editor

X-CHANGES

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP — 387 Park Avenue South — New York, New York — 10016

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Wow! It looks like Kieron Dwyer made a big splash with his story and art for the Archangel solo story in X-FACTOR #47 ("Guardian"). Kieron is best known for his pulse-pounding pencils on CAPTAIN AMERICA, and X-FACTOR #47 marked his debut as a writer for Marvel. Judging by the overwhelmingly favorable mail we received on the issue, Kieron's got a big future ahead of him as a scripter. (Although for the immediate future, Mr. Dwyer will only be penciling a few upcoming issues of X-MEN).

We're trying to catch up on our mail this month, so we'll start off with your comments on issue #47, and then see what you had to say about issue #48.

Dear Men of Marvel,

This is my first letter written to any comic and it's well deserved. X-FACTOR #47 was a really great piece of work. My hat's off to Kieron Dwyer for the great storyline and the fabulous art. He went from the craziness of one planet to another. He focused on how kids are often forgotten and left alone to the scum on the street.

Many people forget about the street children and maybe your comic might wake some people up. Parents shouldn't cast their kids out, and kids should go to people who they can really trust, like Covenant House, not scum who make money on using and abusing your youth. Every runaway kid needs someone like Archangel to watch over them.

It's nice to see Marvel take time out to address some of the issues we face in real life every day. In the long run, it adds to the comic and makes it more realistic.

Two things before I go. Change Archangel's name to the Guardian. This name seems to fit after seeing it on page 4 of issue #47. Second, I think Warren is an up and coming figure in the Marvel Universe so please give him a Limited Series.

So until Iceman starts his own group with "Ben and Jerry." Make Mine Marvel.

Frank Vitale
3408 Ave. K
Brooklyn, NY 11210

Thanks for the kind words, Frank. No plans to change Archangel's name any time soon, but if you like the name "Guardian," keep your eyes peeled to ALPHA FLIGHT. There just may be a Guardian coming up there in the near future. While Warren is not scheduled to receive a Limited Series any time soon, who knows—maybe if enough people write in...

Dear X-FACTOR Crew,

"Guardian" was fabulous! Kieron Dwyer's

art isn't too bad either. I love the way he silhouettes Archangel against the city's horizon and sky. Congrats on a great story. I hope we can see some more solo stories such as this one in the future.

Bart Leatherman
Rt. 4, Box 11-A
Vale, NC 28168

Dear X-Qudes,

When I first picked up X-FACTOR #47, I was upset and angry. I thought that this would be just another idiotic fill-in story, and right in the middle of a full-scale war!! I almost didn't read it.

Well, I could not have been more wrong. The story was actually quite good. The art, although not what I was used to, was superb. I couldn't believe it! It seems you people have pulled another rabbit out of your collective hats!! If future fill-in issues have this amount of quality, I won't mind 'em one bit.

Joe Christiano
35 Coach Dr.
Waterbury, CT 06708

Thanks, Joe. We try to avoid running out-of-continuity material, but sometimes it's just unavoidable. Let's hope that future ones are as well received as X-FACTOR #47 was.

Dear X-People,

Issue #47 ("Guardian") was the best issue of X-FACTOR in a long, long time.

Please don't make it an accident.

Ken Sander
PSC Box 4571
Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437

Let's take a look at a copy of issue #47 here... Hey, that story wasn't supposed to be in issue #47! How'd that get in there? Oops! Looks like it was an accident!

Sorry about that, Ken.

Now, let's move on to your letters for X-FACTOR #48...

Dear Marvel,

I just picked up X-FACTOR #48, and I loved it. The cover was great, the story was great, heck, Jean looked GREAT! I've been collecting X-FACTOR for about six months and you haven't disappointed me yet.

I still don't understand this Jean/Maddie/Phoenix thing. Sure, I have X-MEN #243, but it doesn't state why Jean physically changes when Maddie or the Phoenix take over. I have a few suggestions for this book.

1) How about giving Archangel a new costume or changing his skin back to its original color.

2) Why not give the Beast his red-and-dark blue costume back. You know, the one he had when he was still with the X-Men.

I hope you take these suggestions into consideration.

Until the Beast dyes his fur green and changes his name to the Abomination, Make

Mine Marvel!

Chris "Deaver" Deaver
Rt. 2, Box 411
Morrliton, AZ 72110

Don't feel bad about not understanding the Jean/Maddie/Phoenix thing, Chris. Sometimes, we're not sure we understand it ourselves! Maybe one of these days we can get someone to explain it to us!

Sorry there won't be any new costumes for X-FACTOR any time soon. But the NEW MUTANTS will soon get new costumes, courtesy of new penciler Rob Liefeld, so you might want to check that book out.

Dear Marvel,

X-FACTOR #48 was great. I must admit, I didn't think I was going to care for this Judgment Wars storyline at first, but these last few issues are turning out to be classics. Louise has crafted what is easily the best story to appear in this mag.

In just a few issues, she has created a whole world with different groups of people, and characters that are really interesting. I've even started to take a liking to Ship, while before all I wanted was for it to just blow up or something. I hope Ship makes it back to Earth with X-Factor now. I still would prefer to see X-Factor find a different headquarters, though.

William Blevins
35 W. Gorge
Hazel Park, MI 48030

We hope your liking of Ship has increased now that X-Factor is back on Earth, William. It looks like Ship will be serving as X-Factor's HQ for a long time to come. Although you never do know when a thermo-nuclear device might actually atomize the sucker.

NEXT ISSUE: Opal throws a party—and Colossus is one of her guests! But it is another more mysterious guest who presents a deadly problem for the Beast and Iceman! Meanwhile, Jean and Scott deal with the ramifications of this issue's big question (plus, check out Ms. Grey's adventures in next month's X-MEN). Be here with Weez and guest penciler Mark Silvestri in 30 days!

APOLOGIA FOR A LETTERS PAGE

Yipes! Umm... oh, so some of you noticed that the letters pages for X-FACTOR #49 and #51 were one and the same. How could such a travesty occur, you ask? Harried schedules? Pressure from above and below? Bad lighting? My foot slipped? Shucks, how did it happen? Beats me. I feel like Bob's making me write, "I will never print the same letter page twice" one hundred times on the chalk board. And I won't, as God is my witness! All My Love—DARYL



MINUTEMEN

Bluntman